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[0019] In order to practice the method of the invention, an aqueous fracturing fluid is first prepared by blending a hydratable polymer into an aqueous fluid. The aqueous fluid could be, for example, water, brine, aqueous based foams or water-alcohol mixtures. Any suitable mixing apparatus may be used for this procedure. In the case of batch mixing, the hydratable polymer and the aqueous fluid are blended for a period of time sufficient to form a hydrated solution. The hydratable polymer that is useful in the present invention can be, but is not necessarily limited to, any of the hydratable polysaccharides having galactose or mannose monosaccharide components and are familiar to those in the well service industry. These polysaccharides are capable of gelling in the presence of a crosslinking agent to form a gelled base fluid, although as noted it is not necessary that the polymer be crosslinked. For instance, suitable hydratable polysaccharides are the galactomannan gums, guar gums and derivatized guar gums, as non-limiting examples. Specific examples are guar gum and guar gum derivatives. The preferred gelling agents are guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar and carboxymethyl hydroxypropyl guar. The most preferred hydratable polymers for the present invention are guar gum and carboxymethyl hydroxypropyl guar and hydroxypropyl guar, in one non-limiting case.

Claims

A2
1. (Amended) A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof to directly break down the gel.

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A3
9. (Amended) A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to act directly on the polymer and not any crosslinking ion, if present, to break down the gel, where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these